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Caveat Emptor: It May Be Electronic, But Don't Overlook the Fine Print [2012]

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Caveat Emptor: it may be electronic, but don't overlook the fine print

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SLA Kentucky Chapter Program on eBooks
Lexington, KY, November 2, 2012

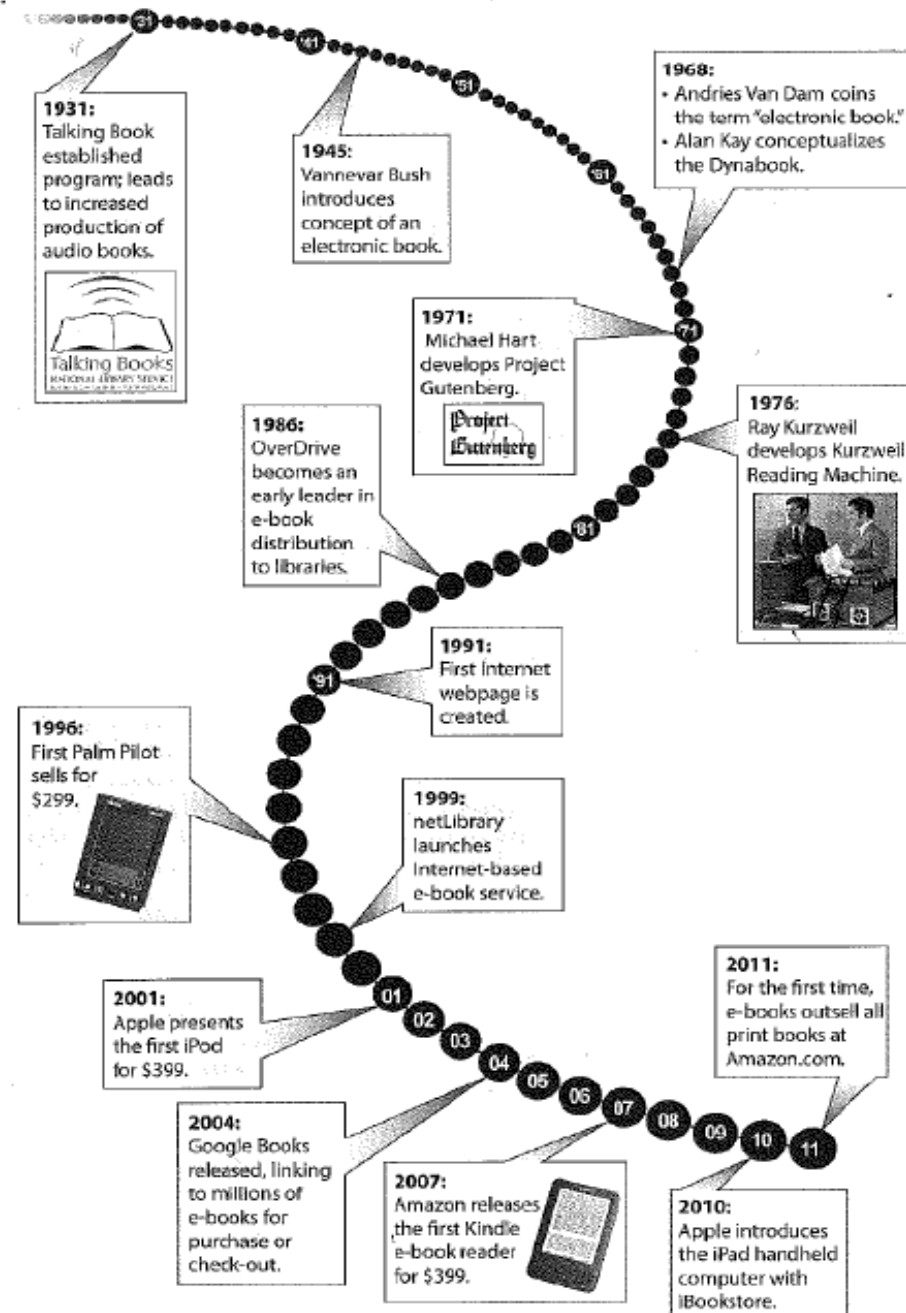
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E-Book Timeline

From: R. Kaplan,
Ed. Building and
Managing E-Book
Collections. Chicago,
Neal-Schuman,
c2012, fig. 1.1.



eBook Acquisition Models: Major Reference Works (MRWs)

- Available individually or in collections (OUP, GALE, Elsevier, SAGE, OECD, etc.)
- Usually a purchase or continuing resource model
- Purchases typically have annual platform or administrative fees that do not include updates. Updates may require additional fees.
- **Tips:** - Wait for end-of-year sales or special offers
 - Check for discounts if print has been purchased previously
 - Ask if platform fee can be waived

eBook Acquisition Models: Library Selects & Purchases

- Will some platforms be preferred?
- Collection or minimum purchases only?
- Site license? Single-user? Multiple users or uses?
- Is proprietary software required? Is it IT- and user-friendly? Is remote access possible?
- Purchase only frontlist/current books?
- Must users create accounts/register?
- Are DRM limits acceptable for your institution?
- Are (high-quality) MARC records available?

How Long is “Perpetual?” Where will My eBook Content Be?

- Typically, not defined; may or may not include post-cancellation rights
- Publisher may be bought or go out of business with no opportunity to download owned content
- eBooks (NetLibrary; Doody's)
- Portico, Institutional or other repositories, or Google
- Acquisitions librarian's machine/desk area

eBook Acquisition Models: Subscription Services

- Viable option if archival research collection is not needed & have sustainable budget
- Current editions are continually replacing older ones
- Multiple format resources may include ebooks, video, PPTs, and ejournals (ClinicalKey)
- Can be difficult to keep catalog or website current
- Lose entire investment upon cancellation

Caution: What you see may not be what you get

- Be aware that publishers may upload new ebooks not included in your “current” purchase
- When purchasing “frontlist” or current collections, look at actual copyright dates
- Check for duplication across subject collections & request discounting for duplication of titles
- Keep in mind that publishing rights can cease and content pulled without much notice
- Publishing rights can also cease before uploading; check for “slippage” or lack of eRights

eBook Acquisition Models: Patron-driven Acquisitions (PDA)

- Several studies have shown that user-selected books are used more (just-in-time purchasing)
- Most vendors offer multiple levels of “risk” or triggers for purchase
- Social sciences, business, and biomedical subject areas are generally selected more often
- Can quickly run out of money; may choose to start with only a few subject areas
- Must remove records from catalog once financial limit is reached

eBook Acquisition Models: Other Paid Options

- Purchase from self-published websites
 - Increased risks of technical issues; possibly no support; may require additional software
 - No license agreement to protect purchaser
- Pay-per-view (Elsevier, Wiley, Emerald, EBL)
 - Library account, tokens, patron credit card
 - Good backup when library is closed/unstaffed
 - Difficult to budget; adds nothing to the collection

eBook Acquisition Models: Open Access / Free

- Google books
- <http://freemedicalbooks.com>
- HathiTrust <http://www.hathitrust.org/>
- <http://www.openbookpublishers.com/> (digital copies under £5)
- UnglueIt <http://unglue.it>
- Local digitized collections (Kentuckiana)

eBook Acquisition Tips

- Purchasing or leasing? Minimum? Single books or collections only? Buy through YBP, etc.? Patron-driven option? Textbooks?
- Annual hosting fees? Printing fees? Copyright fees?
- Are proprietary readers easily downloaded and IT-friendly?
- How will users discover the books? In a catalog? On a website?
- Can users can navigate the site and find a book; easily locate the contents? turn the pages? Bookmark / highlight? Use with EndNote or RefWorks?
- How many concurrent users? Is there a reserve / hold feature?
- Are eReserves or Blackboard permitted? Generous digital rights?
- User printing / downloading? ILL? Ariel / electronic or print?
- Perpetual access? Will purchased content have to be downloaded after a period of years? Will you be notified when there are changes in leased content? (updated or replaced)

Future Trends

- Increased direct student textbook rentals or purchases, either by semester or even by the hour or chapter
- eBooks will be added to publisher platforms, so that searching will include any format
- “Frankenbooks” will increase;
 - ebooks will include audio, video, & be more interactive
 - OUP Scholarly Books includes searchable commentary/reviews along with text
 - eBook sites will include commentary, edits, margin notes, even textual changes
 - Definition of “book” will change (Palgrave Pivot: www.palgrave.com/pivot)

Back to the Future

- Is print now “grey literature?” Ephemera?
 - Increasing disparity between print and online (Elsevier’s Expert Consult Premium books; Springer MyCopy, Espresso Book Machines)
 - Use of “tokens,” pay-per-view, prepaid downloads
 - Rentals of etextbooks / chapters
- Will anything ever be free?
 - Institutional repositories have not lived up to their promise, esp. in relation to ebooks
 - Authors/creators expect compensation / recognition
 - Even free e-content still requires staff / processing (minimal MARC records, discovery tools, tagging, etc.)

This presentation, along with the full 4-hr. MLA
CE course PPT for *Herding Ejournals and
Ebooks* can be found here:

<http://www.uky.edu/Libraries/mcmlaaken/>

Please direct any questions or comments to:
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